

Docket No. AUS920010954US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DELAYED ANSWERING OF MOBILE
TELEPHONES**

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An apparatus and method for delayed answering of calls directed to mobile telephones are provided. With the apparatus and method, a mobile telephone may be set to a delayed answering mode which provides a brief delay between answering of the call and actual conversation by the called party. That is, the call may be answered, but the attention of the called party is not required until the elapse of a particular delay period. This delay period allows the called party to gracefully discontinue current involvement that is requiring the attention of the called party so that the called party's attention can then be provided to the calling party. The delayed answering mode may be entered in any of a number of different ways. For example, the mobile telephone may be set to a delayed answering mode in response to a setting directed by the user of the mobile telephone, based on an identification of a calling party, based on a schedule of events, based on a physical location of the user of the mobile telephone, and the like.

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